Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of isolating at least one plasmid from other component(s) of a liquid that includes RNA, comprising:

(a) providing a separation matrix comprised of one or more porous carriers, which carrier(s) present anion exchange groups on external surfaces as well as pore surfaces and a pore size distribution that does not allow access of plasmids to pore surfaces;

(b) contacting said matrix with the liquid to adsorb the plasmid(s) to ligands present on the external surfaces of the separation matrix and to adsorb the RNA to ligands present on the pore surfaces; and

(c) contacting an eluent with the separation matrix to release the plasmid(s) and recovering plasmid(s) from a fraction of said eluent.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A method of isolating at least one plasmid from other component(s) of a liquid that includes RNA, comprising:

(a) providing a separation matrix comprised of one or more porous carriers, which carrier(s) present anion exchange groups on external surfaces as well as pore surfaces and a DNA exclusion limit of at least about 270 base pairs;

(b) contacting said matrix with the liquid to adsorb the plasmid(s) to ligands present on the external surfaces of the separation matrix and to adsorb the RNA to ligands present on the pore surfaces; and

(c) contacting an eluent with the separation matrix to release the plasmid(s) and recovering plasmid(s) from a fraction of said eluent.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The method of claim 2, wherein the DNA exclusion limit of the separation matrix is at least about 1,000 base pairs.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the separation matrix is in the form of essentially spherical particles having an average diameter of 30-50 μm.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the plasmids are of a size that exceeds about 3,000 base pairs.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, which is a large scale process wherein at least about 1 grams of plasmid is recovered.

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of claim 1 or 2 ~~claim 7~~, wherein the plasmids recovered in step (c) are essentially free from RNA.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, further comprising:

(d) subjecting the plasmid-containing eluate obtained from step (c) to hydrophobic interaction chromatography (HIC).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said anion-exchange groups are selected from the group consisting of quaternary amine (Q) groups and diethylamine groups.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A separation matrix for the purification of plasmids comprising one or more porous carriers which carrier(s) present anion exchange groups on external surfaces as well as pore surfaces and a pore size distribution that does not allow access of plasmids to pore surfaces; wherein the pore surfaces absorb RNA impurities while the external surfaces absorb the plasmids.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A separation matrix for the purification of plasmids comprising a porous carrier wherein anion-exchange groups have been immobilized on the surfaces, which matrix presents a DNA exclusion limit of at least about 270 base

pairs; wherein pore surfaces of the porous carrier absorb RNA impurities, while external surfaces of the porous carrier absorb plasmids.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The separation matrix of claim 12, wherein the DNA exclusion limit of the matrix is at least about 1,000 base pairs.

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (previously presented): The separation matrix of claim 11 or 12, wherein the separation matrix is in the form of essentially spherical particles having an average diameter of 30-50 μm, and the plasmids are of a size that exceeds about 3,000 base pairs.

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (previously presented): The separation matrix of claim 11 or 12, for large scale purification of plasmids in volumes exceeding about 1 grams of plasmid.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A kit comprising, in separate compartments, a separation matrix comprised of one or more porous carriers, which carrier(s) present anion exchange groups on external surfaces as well as pore surfaces and a pore size distribution that does not allow access of plasmids to pore surfaces, wherein the pore surfaces absorb RNA impurities while the external surfaces absorb the plasmids; at least one buffer; and written

instructions that describes how plasmids are purified from other components of a liquid using said kit.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A kit comprising, in separate compartments, a separation matrix comprised of a carrier to the surfaces of which anion-exchange groups have been immobilised, which matrix presents a DNA exclusion limit of at least about 270 base pairs, wherein pore surfaces absorb RNA impurities, while external surfaces absorb plasmids; at least one buffer; and written instructions that describes how plasmids are purified from other components of a liquid using said kit.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The kit of claim 19, wherein the DNA exclusion limit of the matrix is at least about 1,000 base pairs.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The kit of claim 18 or 19, wherein the matrix is in the form of essentially spherical particles having an average particle diameter of 30-50 μm.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The kit of claim 18 or 19, wherein the separation matrix is provided in a chromatography column the diameter of which is at least about 10 cm.